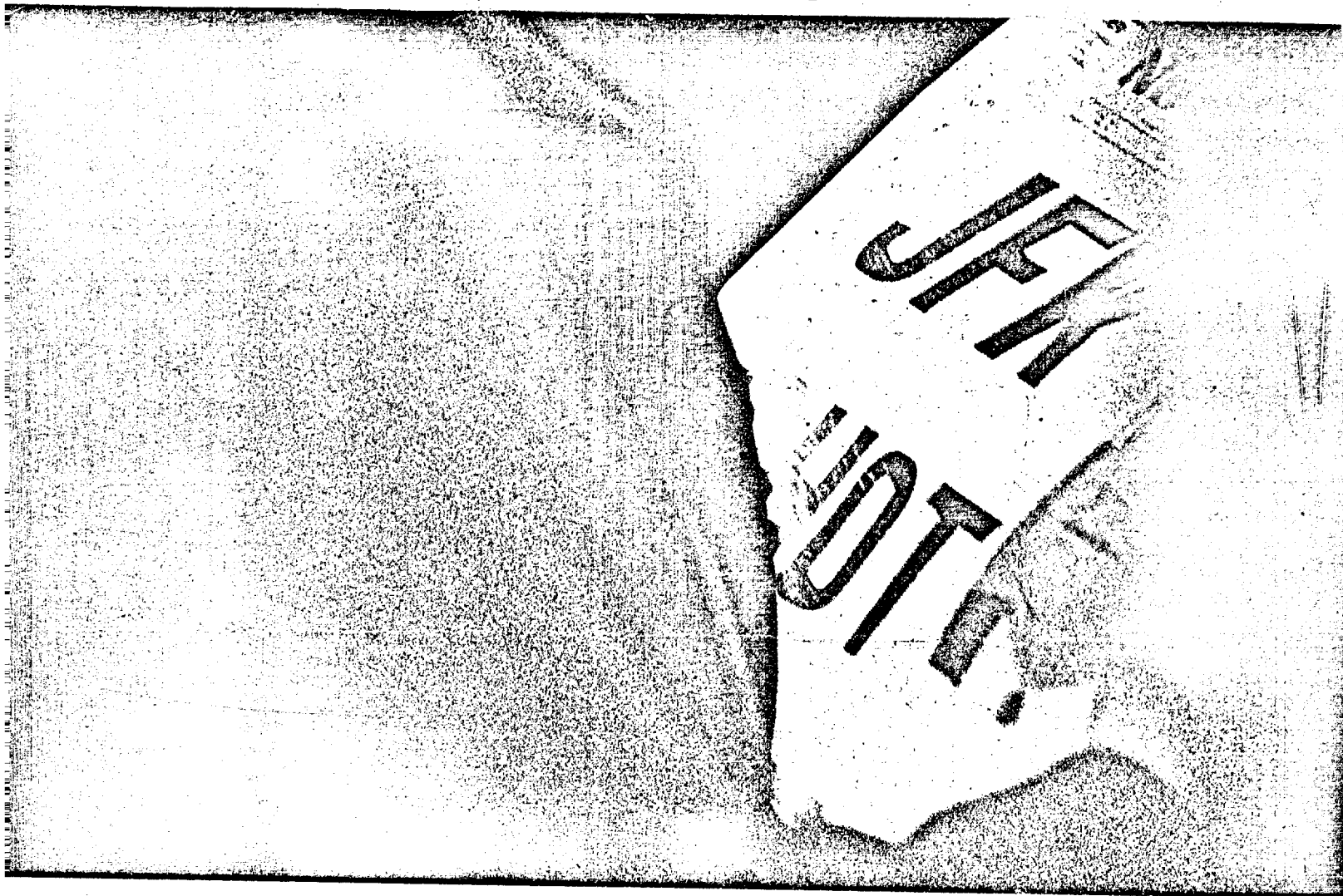


STILL SPELLBOUND

A sophisticated account of the Kennedy years that does not feign dispassion

By Michael Harrington



A THOUSAND DAYS: John F. Kennedy in the White House. By Arthur M. Schlesinger jr. Houghton Mifflin. 1,087 pp. \$9.

For Americans, November 22, 1963, is not yet history. It still hurts too much.

Thus, as Arthur M. Schlesinger jr., well understands in *A Thousand Days*, it is not yet possible even to pretend to dispassion. Some young historian of the future, he says, will attempt to regain the "Presidential perspective," that view of the whole which John F. Kennedy had intended to record in his own memoirs. But this generation of chroniclers still lives within the political and emotional spell of the fallen leader. The past they analyze is still very much the present and thus in fragments (for example, Schlesinger's own White House experiences weight his book toward the foreign policy issues in which he was personally involved).

And still, *A Thousand Days* is a permanent and indispensable contribution to the understanding of the Kennedy Administration. It is rare that a brilliant scholar is himself an original historical source or that he has an eye for personality as well as massive trends. Schlesinger is certainly a Kennedy partisan, but he is not an apologist, and, above all, he

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CIA in Bay of Pigs

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Approved For Release 2004/11/01 : CIA-RDP88-01350R000200640015-8

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Approved For Release 2004/11/01 : CIA-RDP88-01350R000200640015-8